



National Capitol DX Association

RECEIVED

MAY 01 1995

COMMENTS RELATED TO

RM- 8626

FCC MAIL ROOM

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 28, 1995

Dear Commissioners:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The National Capitol DX Association is an organization of experienced and accomplished amateur radio operators located in the Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland area, whose 60 Members have been licensed cumulatively for approximately 1000 years, the vast majority of whom are Extra Class licensees and all of whom are Members of the American Radio Relay League. (Current Membership roster enclosed as "Addendum A")

At a recent meeting of our Members, I was charged with conveying to you our collective and unanimous comments in opposition to the petition filed with the Commission by Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, seeking to eliminate those portions of the Rules under Part 97 which authorize one-way amateur radio transmissions necessary to assisting persons learning, or improving proficiency in, the international Morse code and necessary to disseminate information bulletins, both of which are exemplified by bulletins and code practice training sessions transmitted by the American Radio Relay League.

We are prompted to comment on this petition by our concern that favorable action on this petition would eliminate a invaluable service which is currently being provided to both the amateur radio community and the public at large at no cost and in a effective and responsible manner. Furthermore, we are not aware of any misuse or abuse of the authority granted by these rules which would in any way constitute a basis for their amendment or elimination. Simply put, we have not observed any conduct which constitutes a "problem" which needs to be addressed or resolved.

With regard to Morse code training and proficiency transmissions, it is our observation that these transmission were for almost all of us an integral and essential part of our efforts to acquire those skills in copying Morse code transmissions which are required by the Commission to qualify for certain classes of amateur radio licenses. Some of us who are more recent licensees, this writer included, were financially fortunate enough to have available to them alternative methods of developing our code receiving skills, including code tapes and computer programs. Nonetheless, we

found copying the code practice transmissions of the American Radio Relay League to be the most effective method for developing these skills and are quite certain that our efforts to fulfill the code reception requirements of the higher class of license would have been less successful if this resource had not been available to us. Even though most of us no longer need to utilize these transmissions to acquire the skills necessary for obtaining the higher classes of license, when we find it necessary to reinforce these skills, after a period of disuse, or wish to enhance these skills, we turn, almost universally to the American Radio Relay League code practice transmissions to accomplish this.

The essence of our concern with regard to Morse code practice transmissions is not that we who, as a group, have already been the beneficiaries of this fine service will no longer have it, but rather that those who aspire to acquire the skills necessary to join the amateur radio ranks will be deprived of it. We can bear witness to its importance and believe that those who in the future wish to qualify to join the amateur radio service should have available to them the same resources which were available to us and which can be of inestimable assistance in attaining this goal. In our opinion, favorable action on this petition will have a substantially negative impact on free and open access to obtaining an amateur radio license by depriving new aspirants of a valuable training resource and forcing them to employ expensive and, arguably, less effective alternatives in their pursuit of certain classes of amateur radio licensure. Such would have the very real potential to foreclose licensure to otherwise potential worthy candidates and for no good purpose which we can ascertain. Such we believe to be contrary to the best long-term interests of both amateur radio and the general public.

As to amateur radio transmissions used to disseminate information related to amateur radio, we view these as being another important training and educational resource for amateur radio operators and the general public, alike, and in many respects complementary to the Morse code training transmissions referred to above. By having the opportunity to obtain information regarding such diverse topics as radio propagation, satellite and space shuttle operations and frequencies, amateur radio's response to storms and other natural disasters and the proposed operations of radio amateurs in distant and remote countries, both active and experienced amateur radio operators and "newcomers" are provided with current information which may not be available from any other source and which serves their respective needs.

The experienced amateurs are provided with information which will assist them in coordinating their efforts to provide service to the public in time of need and also allow them to improve their skills and competence as they pursue their training in those amateur radio activities and practices which are of particular interest to them. At the same time, those relatively new to amateur radio can "listen in" to get a sense of what amateur radio operators do and what aspects of amateur radio they may wish to pursue, as their experience and competence grow. For new or aspiring amateurs, the very act of listening to actual amateur transmissions provides an experience which is likely to be both exciting and insightful. Such cannot be duplicated with any such things as tapes or computer simulations.

Furthermore, the public is also served in that all who have a receiver covering the HF bands can listen in and not only obtain information which is of interest to them, but more importantly, develop an understanding of the types of activities in which amateur radio operators engage and learn about the services which amateur radio operators provide. We want the public to know all about what we do

and believe that by doing so the public will come to appreciate the value of our efforts to serve them. None of these benefits will accrue to any of us if these informational bulletins are no longer available.

For the reasons outlined above, the National Capitol DX Association respectfully requests that you reject Mr. Maia's petition as being inimical to the growth and development of the amateur radio service, discriminatory against those aspiring to develop the skills and competence to attain higher license class and contrary to the public interest. We believe that the rules currently governing the matters in question should remain in force and without amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

National Capitol DX Association

By: Brian E. Bayus

Brian E. Bayus
President

Extra Class Licensee: N1KCE

2521 Heathcliff Lane
Reston, Virginia 22091

Enclosures: Original and five copies for the Commission

One copy mailed first class postage prepaid to:

David Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive V.P. & Secretary, American Radio Relay League
John C. Kanode, N4MM, Director, American Radio Relay League
Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC, Director, American Radio Relay League
Raymond A. Kowalski, Esq., Keller and Heckman, Counsel for Petitioner

NCDXA ROSTER - FEBRUARY 1995
ACTIVE MEMBERS

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE
AA4EL	Ron McCall	1405 N. Roosevelt St., Arlington, VA 22205		
AA4KD	Clair Allen	814 De Sale St. SW, Vienna, VA 22180	703-938-0441	703-733-6534
AA4XU	Ben Shaver	3162 Annandale Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042	703-534-4740	
K1ZZI	Ralph Bates	6830 Donahue Ct, Falls Church, VA 22042	703-237-7705	703-205-6305
K3CHP	Joe Mikuckis	6913 Furman Parkway, Riverdale, MD 20737	301-459-0084	
K3SKE	Daniel Szymanski	7310 Parkview Drive, Frederick, MD 21702	301-473-8571	703-542-3046
K3ZO	Fred Laun	PO BOX 97, Temple Hills, MD 20757	301-899-1235	
K4FJ	Steve Jarrett	8804 Camden Street, Alexandria, VA 22308	703-780-0246	703-692-6035
K4YT	Karl Renz	ESC-PSC-115 Frankfort, APO, AE 59213	703-385-3228	202-647-2610
K5RJ	Ray Johnson	615 Kearney Court, Vienna, VA 22180	703-938-8313	
K6IR	Kenneth Miller	16904 George Washington Dr. Rockville, MD 20853	301-774-7709	
KA3CXG	Michael King	321 Queen St, Frederick, MD 21701	301-662-6435	
KA3TGY	Leo Boberschmidt	3928 Denfield Ct, Kensington, MD 20895	301-946-3738	703-379-5600
KC3FK	Glenn Tracey	6 Osbourne Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228	301-744-0888	301-787-8484
KC3J	Ron Mays	9840 Lake Landing Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	301-330-5595	301-417-5140
KC4B	John Kirkham	10920 Byrd Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030	703-273-2519	703-734-5982
KD4BK	Barry Bennecoff	11557 Ivy Bush Ct, Reston, VA 22091	703-476-5858	703-715-7012
KK4HD	Paul Van Der Eijk	4900 Bradford Dr, Annandale, VA 22003	703-750-9744	202-473-3171
KN3P	George Freed	12108 Velvet Hill Dr, Owings Mills, MD 21117	301-356-5588	301-965-3079
KN4ZT	Mel Woods	4509 Guinea Rd, Annandale, VA 22003	703-978-0765	
K00U	Steve Harrison	309 Hanford Ct, Sterling Park, VA 20164	703-444-9454	703-351-8724
K04EI	Joe Squarzini Jr	1013 Northwoods Tr, McLean, VA 22102	703-790-5199	
K07V	Mike Cizek	PO Box 227, Oxon Hill, MD 20750	301-248-9227	
KZ3H	Craig Stevens	19632 Olney Rd, Brookeville, MD 20833	301-774-2207	301-774-5200
N1KCE	Brian Bayus	2521 Heathcliff Lane, Reston, VA 22091	703-264-1180	703-264-1180
N3FBN	Aaron Brickman	11709 Milbern Dr, Potomac, MD 20854	301-983-9321	
N3II	Dave Blanchard	760 Holiday Lane, Westminster, MD 21157	301-876-7546	
N3KQY	Ronald Rubin	12514 Laurel Grove Pl, Germantown, MD 20874	301-540-1506	301-468-1800
N3TO	Robert Short	5704 Annamaria Court, Rockville, MD 20855	301-926-8995	
N3UN	Wayne Wilson	452 Klee Mill Rd, Sykesville, MD 21784	301-795-9452	
N4MM	John Kanode	RFD 1 BOX 73A, Boyce, VA 22620	703-837-1340	
N4MQX	Joe Sciuto	5910 Westchester St, Alexandria, VA 22310	703-922-1728	
N4RA	Richard Allardyce	11606 Belmont Dr, Oakton, VA 22124	703-620-2281	703-640-2218
N4VA	Larry Vogt	8103 Sherbrooke Ct, Springfield, VA 22152	703-569-7747	
N4YKD	Daniel Burns	6611 Birchleigh Way, Alexandria, VA 22315	703-971-2588	
N6VF	Billy Putnam	2752 Cape Horn Rd, Westminster, MD 21157	410-239-4426	410-965-1456
NR3Y	Darrell Earnshaw	5013 Regina Dr, Annandale, VA 22003	703-941-6058	202-473-6045
W3AZD	Don Search	10550 State Rd 84 #147 Park City West, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324	305-370-3128	
W3GOH	Joel Satin	14608 Springfield Rd, Darnstown, MD 20874	301-670-9866	703-602-8346
W3HXI	Wayne Claybaugh	8263 Minton Ct, Millersville, MD 21108	410-987-8645	410-965-4539
W3NF	Lloyd Chastant	11680 Old Frederick Rd, Marriotsville, MD 21104	301-442-1424	301-993-7062
W3UJ	Henry Herman	11803 Enid Dr, Potomac, MD 20854	301-299-4316	
W3VRT	Howard Davis	6610 Fernwood Ct, Bethesda, MD 20817	301-365-2266	
W3ZN	James Douglas	22432 Goshen Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-253-4667	301-953-1120

NCDXA ROSTER - FEBRUARY 1995
ACTIVE MEMBERS

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE
W4FQT	Ben Baddley	11906 Wayland St, Oakton,VA 22124	703-620-5914	703-824-3827
W4JVN	David Klimaj	5637 Heming Av, Springfield,VA 22151	703-569-4681	202-693-1172
W4WG	John Boyd	Route 1 Box 473, Round Hill,VA 22141	703-338-5725	
W4WKB	Gene Alward	7501 Falkland Dr, Gainesville,VA 22065	703-754-7047	703-698-2088
WA1SPT	Rick Murphy	3842 Whitman Rd, Annandale,VA 22003	703-280-2637	301-306-2040
WA3DVO	Everett Bollin	8000 Ray Leonard Ct, Palmer Park,MD 20785	301-341-5696	301-982-1000
WA4QYP	Robert Spindle	15855 Waterfall Rd, Haymarket,VA 22069	703-754-0769	703-642-0544
WB4NFO	Pradyumna Rana	29 East Chapman St, Alexandria,VA 22301	703-683-4845	
WC4B	David Hammond	3322 Saddlestone Ct, Oakton,VA 22124	703-273-0941	
WD4O	Bernie Keiser	2046 Carrhill Rd, Vienna,VA 22181	703-281-9582	
WE6H	Richard Williams	7902 Viola St, Springfield,VA 22152	703-451-5699	202-358-2397
WV3B	Jeff Strandburg	1504 Ballard St, Silver Spring,MD 20910	301-587-3396	301-654-1550

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE
K4XH	John Morris	4008 Gunnison Ln, Huntsville,AL 35810	205-859-8920	
NK4U	Nancy Draheim	4133 Lynette Ct, Kennesaw,GA 30144		
W3ACE	Armin Meyer	4610 Reno Rd NW, Washington,DC 20008	202-244-7737	202-522-6065
W4PBC	Jeff Hutchinson	1620 Neptune Dr, Merritt Island,FL 32952	407-454-7306	